## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Docket No. 6:22-cr-62

**VERSUS** August 23, 2022

TYCOBY ARCENEAUX Lafayette, Louisiana

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF MOTION HEARING HELD BEFORE THE HONORABLE DAVID C. JOSEPH, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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## 1 **COURT PROCEEDINGS** 2 THE COURT: Good afternoon. We're on the record now in 22-cr-62, United States versus Tycoby Arceneaux. 3 4 Counsel, please make your appearances. 5 MR. NICKEL: Good afternoon, Your Honor. John 6 Nickel for the Government. 7 MR. REGISTER: Harold Register, III on behalf of 8 Mr. Tycoby Arceneaux. 9 MR. JOHNSON: Garron Johnson on behalf of 10 Mr. Tycoby Arceneaux as well, Judge. 11 THE COURT: Good afternoon, gentlemen. 12 Mr. Arceneaux is present in court with counsel. At this 13 time we are set for hearing on the Defendant's motion to 14 suppress evidence related to four separate incidents. After reviewing the documents, my understanding is the 15 third search warrant -- that is of the second search 16 17 warrant of the house on 104 Royalton Parkway did not 18 yield any evidence; is that correct? 19 MR. NICKEL: That's correct, Your Honor. The point 20 would be moot. THE COURT: So really we're talking about three 21 22 incidents, the search of 1200 Robley, the apartment at 23 1200 Robley, and then the first search of 104 Royalton, 24 as well as the traffic stop of Mr. Arceneaux. Okay. 25 think the best way to proceed is does the Government

have relevant law enforcement here?

MR. NICKEL: Yes, Your Honor. Can we discuss one matter with the Court before we get started with testimony?

THE COURT: Sure.

MR. NICKEL: There is an outstanding plea agreement in this case and the defense attorney has been tendered that plea agreement. That plea agreement is contingent upon it extinguishing after this motion to suppress, right. So I spoke with defense counsel. I think they're on the same page. We would like to submit on the briefs that we have and exhibits that we've attached to our briefs for today's suppression hearing. I've agreed to leave the deal open that's currently been extended to them if no officers take the stand today and this matter is decided only on the briefs. I'll let defense counsel --

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. REGISTER: Your Honor, that is a correct recitation of our intentions speaking to Mr. Nickel with regards to the plea offer as well as submitting on the briefs. We also attached several exhibits to the motion as well as a memorandum. And as an additional exhibit we'd like to offer, file, and introduce the transcript of the preliminary hearing. I believe the court

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reporter filed that into the Court's record today. So we would like to have that as an additional exhibit with regards to the motion as we submit on the briefs, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. I did get a call. understand there was a call this morning, a motion to continue the hearing, which is really improper in a lot of ways. We moved this back last week, I think the day before the hearing, after we had set aside this time for a hearing; and then to get another motion for continuance on the date of the hearing is not appropriate in this court at all. You know, we have to schedule things. When we set aside time and take -prepare for a hearing, it's not something that just can be moved on a whim. I understand there's plea negotiations. That's fine. But if and when there's indication that a date may not work, we need a notice certainly well before the day of or the day before a hearing. Okay.

MR. REGISTER: Yes, Your Honor.

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Okay. The issue with regard to the search of 1200 Robley Drive, 3112, the issue is whether or not this constitutes a bare bones affidavit that negates the good faith exception to the exclusionary

rule. Same with 104 Royalton Parkway. The traffic stop on January 28 I don't think is one that can be decided on the briefs, frankly, so I think that's something that we have to hear officer testimony about.

MR. NICKEL: Judge, may I ask what issue of fact is at issue in the vehicle stop?

THE COURT: Well, I don't know, for example, what the policy of the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Department is regarding doing inventory searches, whether he was taken into custody before the search of the vehicle, whether they were going to, in fact, execute the search warrant. I don't know how that transpired and whether or not it was an inevitable discovery issue where they were going to conduct the inventory search anyway, whether the search of the vehicle would have been permissible pursuant to a search incident to arrest. So I think there's some issues outstanding on that particular topic.

MR. NICKEL: Sure, Your Honor. Two things. I would ask that we're allowed to be able to supplement our motion with the actual police report from that night. And the second thing is we contend there was a probable cause sniff of the vehicle by a canine that night and that when Mr. Arceneaux was arrested it was pursuant to an arrest warrant and that this was not a

1 traffic stop but, rather, a felony takedown. So once he 2 was taken out of the car, arrested, then it didn't 3 become an issue because this was not a traffic stop. THE COURT: It's not whether he was held too long 4 at the stop. That's not the issue. But there's still 5 6 issues of fact about, you know, was there another person 7 that they were going to let drive the vehicle home. 8 just don't have enough information. I don't necessarily 9 see that there's, you know, a suppression issue 10 depending on the series of events; but I don't know. I 11 don't have enough information so I don't think we can 12 submit that on the briefs. 13 MR. NICKEL: Would Your Honor allow me to 14 supplement the exhibit or the motion with the actual 15 police reports from that night? 16 THE COURT: No. Let's take some testimony. 17 MR. NICKEL: Judge, the Government's going to call 18 Agent Trevor Picard of the LPSO, Lafayette Parish 19 Sheriff's Office. 20 TREVOR PICARD, 21 after being first duly cautioned and sworn to tell the truth, 22 the whole truth and nothing but the truth, did testify on 23 oath as follows: 24 **DIRECT EXAMINATION** 25 BY MR. NICKEL:

1	<b>Q</b> . Good afternoon, Agent Picard. Can you please state
2	your full name for the record.
3	A. Trevor Picard.
4	<b>Q</b> . Can you spell that.
5	<b>A</b> . T-R-E-V-O-R, P-I-C-A-R-D.
6	<b>Q</b> . Where do you work?
7	A. Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office.
8	<b>Q</b> . How long have you worked with the Lafayette Parish
9	Sheriff's Office?
10	A. Just over four years.
11	<b>Q</b> . Okay. Before the four years with the Lafayette
12	Parish Sheriff's Office, where'd you work before that?
13	A. I worked for the Iberia Sheriff's Office,
14	St. Martin Sheriff's Office, and I was a reserve officer for
15	the Broussard Police Department prior to that.
16	<b>Q</b> . Okay. And how long was that?
17	A. In total, 15 and a half years.
18	<b>Q</b> . Can you pull that microphone a little bit closer to
19	you. So you're currently with the narcotics division of the
20	Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office; is that correct?
21	A. Yes.
22	<b>Q</b> . Did you have an opportunity to begin investigation
23	into Mr. Tycoby Arceneaux?
24	A. I assisted in one, yes.
25	<b>Q</b> . Okay. Can you tell us how that investigation

began.

- A. Initially in 2021 information was received by another agent in reference to Tycoby, I believe, selling marijuana. He wasn't what I would call, like, a specific high level target or anything like that. It was just essentially just some information received and whenever we had time or whenever we were in the area we would look into him, and the address we initially had received was the address on Royalton.
- **Q**. Okay. You initially got that address on Royalton as a place where Mr. Arceneaux lived, correct?
  - A. Yes.
- **Q**. Did you have an opportunity to conduct surveillance on Royalton?
  - A. Yes.
- **Q**. Okay. Did that tell you anything into your investigation of whether he lived there?
- A. I personally did not see him there. There were some vehicles that we -- that I was personally told about that we did see there, but on the occasions that I was there I had never actually seen him there.
- **Q.** Did your investigation eventually take a turn from Mr. Arceneaux being, you know, a simple marijuana dealer to a bigger scale dealer, larger scale dealer?
  - A. Yes.

1 Q. Tell me how that happened.

- A. In the beginning of 2022 agents with the narcotics unit spoke with a source of information who eventually turned into a confidential informant that explained that Tycoby was selling large amounts of methamphetamine from an apartment on Robley Drive, which was Ansley Walk Apartments.
- Q. And would I be correct in saying that's Apartment 3112?
  - A. Yes.
- **Q**. Okay. Before we get to the search warrant on that, are you familiar with the investigation of Mr. Arceneaux beginning in 2022 when some warrants were -- when some warrants were received for Mr. Arceneaux's arrest?
  - A. Yes.
  - **Q**. And can you tell us more about that.
- A. During the ongoing investigation we attempted to conduct surveillance which included following Mr. Arceneaux in vehicles. And on one occasion we attempted to follow him and on that specific occasion he was driving extremely erratic high rates of speed, changing lanes without signaling. So on that specific occasion we'd actually lost him earlier in the day. And while I was driving, going to another location, he actually stopped on the side of me on a Bertrand Drive and I looked over and it was him. I was like, oh, there he is. So we started following him again. His

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driving behavior was the same, driving well over the posted speed limit, changing lanes without signalling, just erratic driving behavior. So based on that, I applied for and was granted an arrest warrant for reckless operation of a motor vehicle by Commissioner Doguet. Q. So is it safe to say this erratic behavior you had seen on other occasions or you'd heard about from other agents? I had seen it on other occasion and, yes, other agents had mentioned that his driving behavior was erratic. Was it to the point where you would describe it as Q. maybe counter-surveillance? MR. REGISTER: Objection, Your Honor, leading. THE COURT: Sustained. BY MR. NICKEL: Q. You've seen Tycoby Arceneaux drive in patterns that are unfamiliar, correct? Α. Yes.

- Q. Can you describe those patterns to us.
- A. On some occasions he would cut through parking lots. He would make blocks that just seemed unnecessary. His driving was -- I guess unpredictable would be, I guess, a way to describe it. Like I said, he would make several turns and end up going back on the same road the direction he'd already come from, which was just obviously very odd.

1	<b>Q</b> . Had you seen these patterns before, based off your
2	training and experience?
3	A. Yes.
4	<b>Q</b> . And what did they mean to you?
5	A. It's normal for people who do those type of things
6	to do that for the purpose to see if any vehicles are
7	following them. Like I said, to make several blocks to go
8	back the same direction, there's really no reason to do that
9	several times. So, in my experience, I've seen it to where
10	it's to see what vehicles are still behind them. Because if
11	you do that several times and there's still certain vehicles
12	behind you, then obviously, if you're doing that for no
13	reason, there's no reason for other vehicles to continue
14	doing that with you.
15	<b>Q</b> . Is there a term for this in criminal
16	investigations?
17	A. Yes.
18	<b>Q</b> . What is that?
19	A. Counter-surveillance.
20	<b>Q</b> . Okay. Did you get a warrant for reckless driving
21	for Mr. Arceneaux on January 26, 2022?
22	A. Yes.
23	<b>Q</b> . Okay. Did you have an opportunity to execute that
24	warrant?
25	A. Yes.

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**Q**. Can you tell us more about that.

A. On January 28th we had located Mr. Arceneaux on Fieldspan Road. We were able to catch up to him and he was driving at a high rate speed on Fieldspan Road. We saw him turn onto Demette Road, and by the time we were able to get there he'd already turned into a driveway. I believe the address is 112, something like that, Demette Road. And we located him in the driveway of that address.

**Q**. Okay. Were any -- did any units that pulled him over have their lights on?

So it wasn't -- he wasn't pulled over. As I said, Α. he was driving at a high rate of speed so by the time I was able to catch up I was able to see that it was that vehicle. And also, the sheriff's office Real Time Crime Center was monitoring license plate readers so they were able to notify us when that vehicle, the silver Chevy Silverado with a specific license plate, I don't recall it offhand, was in a certain area. So once they were able to tell us that, I was able to see it from a distance. Traffic was real light at the time, it was late at night, so I was able to see it. By the time that I got there, I was able to visually confirm that that was the vehicle. As I said, it was already parked in the driveway so it wasn't a, you know, like, the police get behind you, put their lights and siren on, you pull over type of stop. The vehicle was already stopped.

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We knew that it was commonly occupied by Mr. Arceneaux. He had an active arrest warrant, and we also had some pending narcotics charges from that night as well. So it was essentially more like an investigative takedown of the So I don't think any lights were activated. think we just got out, identified ourselves and --Q. Was he immediately arrested? Α. Yes. Okay. Can you -- he got out of the driver's seat Q. or the passenger seat? The driver's seat. Α. Q. He is taken out of the driver's seat by you or someone else, or does he step out? He was instructed to step out. Α. Q. Is he immediately detained? 0kav. Α. Yes. Q. Okay. The silver Chevy Silverado, was it the same car he was in on January 26th? Α. Yes. Okay. So same vehicle. So once he is detained, Q. what did you elect to do next? Initially we had called for a wrecker to come and get the vehicle, but it was determined not long after that the address was -- belonged to the female passenger that he

was with so we went ahead and canceled the wrecker because

she obviously was okay with it being there. So we canceled the wrecker. And obviously, because of the investigation prior that night, we definitely felt we had plenty of reasonable suspicion and borderline probable cause to search the vehicle. But there was a patrol canine working so, just to reiterate, we decided to call for the canine to come and do a sniff of the vehicle prior to us conducting a search.

- **Q**. Let's back up a little bit. Did anyone, either the female on scene or Mr. Arceneaux, say that the vehicle was theirs that night?
- A. Yes. I informed Mr. Arceneaux of his rights per Miranda, explained to him why he was being arrested and why he was there. And while speaking with him I asked him if the vehicle was his. He explained it was a rental and it was for him.
  - Q. And the female, did she give any statements?
- **A.** She explained that they were friends. And she said she had some keys, a phone, and some food in the truck, and she said nothing else inside of the truck belonged to her.
  - Q. Was she ever detained?
- A. I believe initially she was, but I think after not long she was -- she wasn't detained in handcuffs for very long, if I remember correctly.
- Q. So you were at a point -- and we'll go back forward to where we were at. You were at a point where you decide

1 not to get a wrecker because the female on scene lived there 2 and the truck was fine there, correct? 3 Α. Yes. 4 Q. However, there was a determination in your head 5 about whether to even get a canine, whether it was necessary, 6 correct? 7 Α. Yes. You felt like you had probable cause at that point 8 Q. 9 to search that vehicle based off what you'd found previously? 10 MR. REGISTER: Objection, Your Honor, leading. 11 THE COURT: Sustained. 12 BY MR. NICKEL: 13 Okay. Do you recall when you called the canine Q. 14 unit? 15 Yes. Α. 16 Q. How many minutes into the stop is this canine unit 17 called? 18 Α. I would say maybe 10, 10ish, 10, 12 minutes, 19 somewhere in there. 20 Q. Okay. Is this after you had gotten Mr. Arceneaux detained, out of the car? 21 22 Α. Yes. Questioned the female there? 23 Q. 24 Α. Yes. 25 Q. Okay. Do you recall how long it took the canine

1	unit to get there?
2	<b>A</b> . Maybe another 10, 15 minutes.
3	<b>Q</b> . Okay. At this point Mr. Arceneaux was already
4	arrested on the arrest warrant, correct?
5	A. Yes.
6	<b>Q</b> . As well as a probable cause arrest based on the
7	items you found in his apartment, right?
8	A. Yes.
9	<b>Q</b> . Okay. Once the canine unit showed up, were you
10	still on scene?
11	A. Yes.
12	<b>Q</b> . You know the canine officer?
13	A. Yes.
14	<b>Q</b> . Who was that?
15	A. Deputy Jamal Tucson.
16	<b>Q</b> . Okay. Do you see Mr. Arceneaux in court today?
17	A. Yes.
18	<b>Q</b> . Can you identify him, please.
19	<b>A</b> . He is sitting in the table to the right with the
20	orange shirt.
21	MR. NICKEL: Judge, I have no further questions at
22	this time.
23	THE COURT: Okay. Detective, you stated you
24	believe you had probable cause to search the vehicle
25	prior to the Defendant's arrest on the reckless driving

warrant. Articulate what bases you thought you had to establish probable cause to search the truck.

THE WITNESS: So we'd received information about him being a larger level narcotics dealer. We had executed a search warrant maybe a couple hours prior to that stop and a large amount of narcotics, weapons, and currency was located which confirmed the information that we'd received.

THE COURT: And that was where? Where was that search?

THE WITNESS: 1200 Robley, Apartment 3112. And also, because of the LPR's, we had learned that Mr. Arceneaux had left going on I-49 north and I believe he was going for several hours in the afternoon and had just returned -- to our knowledge, had just returned. So because of the information, the confirmation with the search warrant and the evidence that was located, and then him just returning from going up north, we felt that at least reasonable suspicion that he would have narcotics in the vehicle and potentially probable cause that he was using the vehicle to transport and to sell narcotics. We believed that we had it but, as I said, because we had a canine at our disposal, we figured we would use that to strengthen what we had already.

THE COURT: And what was -- where was the vehicle

1	when you conducted the search?
2	THE WITNESS: It was in the driveway of 112 I
3	think it was 112 Demette.
4	THE COURT: 112 what?
5	THE WITNESS: I think it's Demette, D-E-M-E-T-T-E,
6	I believe.
7	THE COURT: And whose residence was that?
8	THE WITNESS: I think her name is Sabrina
9	Babineaux.
10	THE COURT: And did you ultimately leave the truck
11	there?
12	THE WITNESS: Yes. She ultimately elected to take
13	possession of it, and Mr. Arceneaux was okay with that.
14	THE COURT: That was the passenger, Sabrina
15	Babineaux?
16	THE WITNESS: Yes.
17	THE COURT: And how long did you say, before the
18	arrest of Mr. Arceneaux, was the search of Robley
19	conducted?
20	THE WITNESS: Maybe a few hours.
21	THE COURT: And did you were agents did
22	agents find anything during that search linking that
23	apartment to Mr. Arceneaux?
24	THE WITNESS: Yes.
25	THE COURT: What?
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1 THE WITNESS: There were photographs of him inside 2 the living room area, of him specifically in one and him with Mabreka Arceneaux. I can't remember her specific 3 4 name, and it was him, her, and another male that we 5 recognized as being a narcotics dealer and another 6 It appeared that they were on vacation. And 7 there was mostly male clothing, shoes, things of that nature inside. 8 9 THE COURT: Okay. And what exactly was -- what 10 drugs were taken by law enforcement during that search? 11 THE WITNESS: There was approximately 10 pounds of 12 methamphetamine and a small amount of marijuana, was the 13 narcotics specific that was taken. 14 THE COURT: All right. And what was ultimately 15 found in the truck? 16 THE WITNESS: There was less than a gram of 17 methamphetamine inside of a bag with some male clothing, 18 less than a gram of marijuana on the floor underneath 19 the radio in the front area, and there was also some 20 drug paraphernalia that was consistent with the items 21 and the methamphetamine that was at the apartment as 22 well. 23 THE COURT: Okay. Cross-examination? 24 MR. REGISTER: Yes, sir. 25 **CROSS-EXAMINATION** 

1 BY MR. REGISTER: Good afternoon, sir. Are you familiar with the 2 Q. search warrant that was issued in this particular case? 3 4 Α. Which one, sir? Q. 5 Any of them, all three of them. 6 Α. Not -- I mean, I know that they were. I don't know 7 the specifics in them. Because I remember testimony testified regarding a 8 Q. 9 confidential informant that was --10 MR. NICKEL: Judge, I'm going to object right now 11 to any attempt to get into the identity of the 12 confidential informant. 13 THE COURT: Are you planning on doing that? 14 MR. REGISTER: No, sir. THE COURT: We're not getting into that. You can 15 reference the confidential informant, but I'm going to 16 17 instruct the witness don't answer information that would 18 compromise the identity of the confidential informant. 19 You can ask questions about any past relationship with 20 the confidential informant, things of that nature, but --21 22 MR. REGISTER: Yes, sir. BY MR. REGISTER: 23 24 So with regards -- so I think your testimony was 25 that there was a source of information that eventually turned

1 into a confidential informant, correct? Α. Yes. 2 And the information that you gained, I'm not saying 3 Q. 4 that you personally, but that agents gained from this 5 individual was then utilized for the search warrant, correct? 6 I don't know. I don't know if that specific 7 information was used as part of the search warrant or if it was just used as information for the investigation. I don't 8 9 know. 10 Q. Okay. Prior to utilizing this confidential 11 informant in this particular case, how many arrests has this 12 individual been responsible for? 13 MR. NICKEL: Same objection, Your Honor. MR. REGISTER: Your Honor, we're not asking --14 THE COURT: He's entitled to ask about the 15 16 reliability of the confidential informant. 17 I don't believe any. As I said, initially they 18 were a source of information that became a confidential 19 informant. So I don't believe that they were involved in any 20 arrests prior to because they were a new confidential informant. 21 22 BY MR. REGISTER: 23 Q. And since they weren't involved in any arrests, 24 that means that the information given to you has never led to 25 any convictions, correct?

I'm sorry. The information they gave?

Α.

2	Q. Information from the confidential informant prior
3	has never led to any convictions of anyone, correct?
4	A. I don't know that they gave any information prior.
5	Q. Okay. With regards to this confidential informant
6	utilized in this particular case, there were no drug
7	hand-to-hand drug transactions or drug buys at any of the
8	residences, correct?
9	A. At the direction of the sheriff's office?
10	<b>Q</b> . At any one there's no information to say that
11	this confidential informant, whomever he or she is, actually
12	conducted a hand-to-hand transaction with Mr. Tycoby
13	Arceneaux out of any of the residences in this particular
14	case, correct?
15	A. They provided information and advised that they
16	did.
17	<b>Q</b> . Okay. Whenever you was there any I guess
18	going back to what you said before, at the direction of the
19	sheriff, I guess to confirm what this individual had said,
20	this person was never equipped with an audio or video
21	monitoring device to conduct a transaction, correct?
22	A. Not that I'm aware of, no.
23	<b>Q</b> . This individual was never, through the direction of
24	the sheriff, texting Mr. Arceneaux to conduct a transaction,
25	a drug transaction, correct?

1 Judge, I'm going to lodge an objection MR. NICKEL: 2 that this is outside the scope of direct examination. We seem to be on the warrant for Apartment 3112, Robley 3 4 Drive, where this witness did not author that affidavit 5 whatsoever and is for the stop of the vehicle, like we 6 discussed initially. 7 THE COURT: Yeah, that's right. However, the probable cause for the search of the automobile is based 8 9 largely on the results of the search of Robley Drive so 10 I'm going to allow Mr. Register to explore that a little 11 bit. 12 Α. Can you ask your question again? 13 MR. REGISTER: Can you state my last question? 14 sorry. 15 (Reporter reads back as requested.) The C.I. wasn't mine so I don't know if anything --16 Α. 17 any conversations were at the direction of the handling 18 So I don't know. agent. 19 BY MR. REGISTER: 20 Q. Okay. Now, with regards to -- have you seen the search warrant? 21 22 Have I seen it? Α. Yes. Have you seen the search warrant? Because I 23 Q. 24 believe you said that was a basis of your, I guess, felony 25 takedown. So have you seen the affidavit in support of the

Α.

No, I don't.

1 search warrant? I may have. I don't know. I don't specifically 2 remember. I may have looked at it or helped proofread it, 3 4 but I don't specifically remember. Do you know if there was any information within the 5 6 search warrant to establish the reliability of this confidential informant? 7 Again, I don't know if the information from the 8 Α. 9 informant was even used in the search warrant or if it was 10 used just to -- for the information to lead to that 11 apartment. I don't know. 12 Q. Now, this particular apartment which related to the 13 first search warrant in this case, at any point in time did 14 you observe or did agents observe Mr. Arceneaux carrying any bags inside of the residence? 15 Α. 16 Yes. 17 At any point in time --18 I'm sorry. Could you -- were you asking if that's Α. 19 in the search warrant or is that -- are you just asking in 20 reference to the investigation? With reference to the investigation. 21 Q. 22 Α. Yes. 23 Q. Okay. Do you know if that was placed in the search 24 warrant?

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Isn't it a fact that officers never observed Q. Mr. Arceneaux committing any illegal criminal activity, outside of the traffic violations which are alleged, but any illegal activity with regards to drugs at that particular residence? Α. Rephrase your question. For example, whenever officers were conducting Q. surveillance did officers smell any marijuana emitting from that particular residence? Α. Not that I'm aware of. Q. Isn't it a fact officers never observed any illegal guns or firearms being held by Mr. Arceneaux whenever he allegedly left the residence or entered into the residence? Α. Not that I'm aware of. Isn't it aware -- isn't it a fact that officers Q. never observed any illegal activity of Mr. Arceneaux prior to the issuing of this particular search warrant in this case with regards to Mr. Arceneaux leaving and going from this particular residence? I am aware of part of the affidavit for the search warrant being that while Mr. Arceneaux was at the apartment agents observed what they believed to be a narcotics transaction take place at that apartment. So I would say that there was what agents believed to be criminal activity

taking place while he was there, yes.

Q.

<b>Q</b> . So along with that part in the affidavit I'd
asked earlier if you were familiar with the affidavit. So
you're familiar with that part of the affidavit with regards
to agents allegedly observing a drug transaction, correct?
A. I'm not familiar with the affidavit. I know I was
there and I was assisting at that point of the investigation.
So to tell you what the affidavit says in regards to it, no,
I don't know. I just know that that was part of the probable
cause for it. But to tell you what the search warrant says,
I don't know.
Q. So going along with that particular example that
was mentioned, that was testified to, isn't it a fact that
there was no hand-to-hand transaction that occurred at that
particular point in time?
A. I don't know. From my understanding, it took place
inside so I don't know that anybody could have seen it but
Q. So it's a fact that agents did not observe a
hand-to-hand transaction occur at the residence of Mr. Tycoby
Arceneaux?
MR. NICKEL: Objection, asked and answered.
THE COURT: Overruled. Did they see it?
THE WITNESS: To my understanding, it wasn't seen
because it occurred inside the apartment.
BY MR. REGISTER:

Deidre D. Juranka, CRR United States Court Reporter

Isn't it a fact that -- well, I believe I asked

Western District of Louisiana

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Α.

Q.

about any weapon. I said guns, but is there any illegal weapons seen at the residence of Mr. Arceneaux prior to the search warrant being executed in this case? Not that I'm aware of. I believe you testified that there was information Q. that Mr. Tycoby Arceneaux was selling marijuana, correct? From my understanding, that's -- from my Α. understanding, that's how it initially started and then it turned into that he was also selling large amounts of methamphetamine. Q. Isn't it a fact that there's no witnesses or any law enforcement has never observed Mr. Tycoby Arceneaux selling marijuana? Α. Observed it? Q. Correct. So, yet again from my understanding, the hand-to-hand transaction that was done a subsequent -- or, excuse me, the believed hand-to-hand transaction that was done led to the discovery of marijuana. So I believe that there was -- that there is evidence that he was. Now, at the time that this particular warrant was Q. executed Mr. Tycoby Arceneaux was not at the residence, correct?

At the time the search warrant was executed

I'm sorry. Say again.

1 Mr. Tycoby Arceneaux was not at the residence, correct? 2 Α. No. There was no traffic stop -- I'm sorry. There was 3 Q. 4 no traffic violations that was committed by Mr. Arceneaux to 5 effectuate the stop at the residence as far as the vehicle, 6 where it was eventually stopped? I think it was Al Dente Road? 7 Demette. Yeah, I believe I had said that I caught 8 Α. 9 up to him at Fieldspan and Ridge and that he was traveling at 10 a high rate of speed at that point as well. 11 And at that particular point in time there was no Q. 12 traffic stop, right, at that point? 13 We weren't able the catch up to him to do one, no. 14 Q. Now, with regards to the passenger in this case, 15 she wasn't arrested, right? 16 Α. No, she was not. 17 0. At the time that Mr. Arceneaux was apprehended at 18 the residence with the vehicle he was immediately detained? 19 Α. Yes. 20 Immediately placed in handcuffs? Q. Yes. Α. 21 22 Q. Immediately removed from the vehicle? 23 Α. Yes. 24 Q. So, basically, he wasn't able to grab anything at 25 that particular point in time as far as wingspan or anything

1 like that? He was removed from the vehicle and placed in the 2 officer's vehicle? 3 Α. Yes. 4 Q. Same thing with the passenger; she was immediately 5 removed from the vehicle? 6 Α. Yes. 7 Q. Doors were closed? 8 Α. To the vehicle? I don't know if they were 9 immediately closed. I don't know. 10 There was no consent given by Mr. Arceneaux or the Q. passenger to search the vehicle, correct? 11 12 Α. No. 13 At that particular point in time, once both Q. 14 occupants of the vehicle were detained and away from being able to reach inside the vehicle to hide or to discard any 15 evidence, there was no smell of marijuana, correct? 16 17 Α. No. 18 There was no drug -- there were no drugs observed Q. 19 in plain view, correct? 20 Α. No. There were no weapons or any illegal weapons 21 Q. 22 observed in plain view, correct? 23 Α. No. 24 Q. Upon being in the vicinity of the passenger, the 25 passenger did not emit of any marijuana, correct?

1	A. I'm sorry. Say again.
2	<b>Q</b> . The passenger did not smell like marijuana,
3	correct?
4	A. No.
5	<b>Q</b> . The passenger, as you could see, did not have any
6	type of bulges that would have resembled any type of weapons,
7	correct?
8	A. No.
9	Q. Same thing for Mr. Arceneaux; whenever
10	Mr. Arceneaux was immediately detained, Mr. Arceneaux did not
11	smell of marijuana, correct?
12	A. No.
13	<b>Q</b> . Mr. Arceneaux did not have any bulges which may
14	have depicted him of hiding or concealing any dangerous
15	weapons, correct?
16	A. No.
17	<b>Q</b> . While on the scene on this particular day with
18	regards to the felony takedown, you didn't observe any
19	illegal activity of either the passenger or Mr. Arceneaux,
20	correct?
21	A. No.
22	<b>Q</b> . Now, you said 10 to 12 minutes into the stop, after
23	the mission of this particular felony takedown was completed,
24	that's when the canine was called, correct?
25	A. No, sir. The time is correct; but the statement

1 about the mission, no, sir, that's not correct. Q. So the mission to take Mr. -- I believe you called 2 it -- termed it a felony takedown, correct? 3 4 Α. I think I called it an investigative takedown. Q. Investigative takedown. All right. And so --5 6 Α. The mission is not just the taking into custody. 7 It was an ongoing narcotics investigation as well. So it was 8 not just to take him into custody. MR. REGISTER: Your Honor, may I approach? 9 THE COURT: Yes. 10 BY MR. REGISTER: 11 12 Q. Show you a document on my computer. Are you 13 familiar with this document? 14 Α. No. This is a document entitled U.S. Department of 15 Q. 16 Justice Drug Enforcement Administration. I believe it is Defendant's Exhibit 3. It is the court report -- I'm sorry, 17 18 the report of -- can you identify what this document is? 19 Α. No. I have no idea what that is. 20 You know who Craig A. Benoit is? Q. Yes. He's the lieutenant of the narcotics unit. 21 22 He's a task force officer. 23 Q. Do you see his name anywhere on this particular 24 document? 25 Α. Uh-uh.

1 Q. What would his name be -- when it says by Craig 2 Benoit, what would be this document? Would it be a document 3 he authored? 4 Α. I'm assuming. I have never seen that. I don't know what that means. 5 6 THE COURT: Mr. Register, the witness has testified 7 he's never seen that document before so he's not the right person to ask about it. If you have things you 8 9 want to ask him from the document and ask him if they're 10 true or not, if he knows anything about them, feel free 11 to do that. 12 MR. REGISTER: Yes, sir. 13 BY MR. REGISTER: So, in the document, if it indicates that there was 14 15 a felony takedown that took place, would that be an incorrect 16 statement? 17 No, not necessarily. The takedown or the 18 investigative stop, I guess there was really -- so, 19 essentially, we pulled up, identified ourselves as law 20 enforcement, and called him out, Mr. Arceneaux and 21 Ms. Babineaux, I believe, at one point so essentially it was 22 a felony takedown, essentially. I guess just the reason that 23 I'm having issues of wording is because it wasn't -- like I 24 said earlier, it wasn't a traffic stop like lights, siren, 25 pull over to the side of the road type of thing. It was he's

stopped in the driveway, we pulled up, told him to get out. So, I mean, a felony takedown would be accurate description of it.

- **Q**. Okay. So with the felony takedown, the purpose of a felony takedown is to essentially, for lack of better words, take down the person who is believed or alleged to have committed a felony, correct?
- A. Yes, but that is not it. A felony takedown is essentially, what I would say is, a style of removing people from a vehicle. It's not solely -- you don't do a felony takedown and that's it. That is just instead of, like, a traffic stop, some officers may walk up to a vehicle and talk to the driver, some may have the drive step out. A felony takedown is you don't walk up, you don't call them out. You would do it safely from a distance, weapons drawn, things like that because of whatever -- whatever dynamic of whatever's going on of they're more of a heightened risk or a heightened safety concern. So just because there's a felony takedown doesn't mean once that is complete that it is done. That's just essentially a style or a way of removing occupants from a vehicle.
- **Q**. All right. And so, by using that example, in this case when the felony takedown occurred Mr. Arceneaux was removed from the vehicle, correct?
  - A. Yes.

1 Q. Mr. Arceneaux as well as the passengers were both 2 removed from the vehicle, correct? 3 Α. Yes. 4 Q. Mr. Arceneaux and the passenger were both, I guess, 5 examined or looked at as far as safety, correct? 6 Α. Yes. 7 Q. And it was determined that neither Mr. Arceneaux 8 nor Ms. Babineaux presented a safety concern, correct? 9 Α. After they were detained, no. 10 All right. And so that would mean that the stated Q. 11 testified purposes of the felony takedown was complete after 12 Mr. Arceneaux and Ms. Babineaux exited the vehicle and were 13 detained and determined not to present any safety -- any 14 danger to anyone, correct? 15 Α. I'm sorry. You lost me on that. Say again. 16 Q. No problem. The purpose of the felony takedown was 17 complete once Mr. Arceneaux and Ms. Babineaux were taken away 18 from the vehicle, detained, and determined not to present a 19 danger to anyone on the scene, correct? 20 Α. That portion of the investigation, yes, Yeah. would've been --21 22 All right. So after that -- that was about 10 to Q. 23 12 minutes, correct? 24 Α. No. 25 Q. Okay. But 10 to 12 minutes after the stop, that's

1 when canine was called? 2 Yes --Α. Q. And then --3 4 -- approximately. 5 -- I believe you said it was another 10 to 15 Q. 6 minutes before canine arrived? 7 Α. Approximately. So from the time that the initial felony takedown 8 Q. 9 occurred until the canine officer arrived, roughly 20, 25 10 minutes? 11 Α. Approximately. 12 Q. Okay. At what point in time as far as in that 13 initial 10 to 12 minutes before the canine was called, is 14 that whenever the felony takedown took place and it was determined that neither Mr. Arceneaux nor Ms. Babineaux 15 16 presented a danger to anyone? 17 Α. You're asking if that was in that 10 to 12 minutes? 18 Q. Correct. 19 Α. Yes. 20 Q. When these alleged drugs were discovered at the residence at the -- I believe that was the residence the 21 22 subject of the search warrant, was Mr. Arceneaux's vehicle 23 there? 24 Α. We're still talking about 1200 Robley? 25 Q. Correct.

1	A. Was his vehicle there?
2	Q. Correct.
3	A. No.
4	<b>Q</b> . So when the drugs were discovered, allegedly
5	discovered, at this residence Mr. Arceneaux's vehicle wasn't
6	there, correct?
7	A. No.
8	<b>Q</b> . Okay. Ms. Babineaux, she wasn't there, correct?
9	A. No.
10	<b>Q</b> . Mr. Arceneaux himself wasn't there, correct?
11	A. No.
12	<b>Q</b> . At no point in time did anyone observe
13	Mr. Arceneaux putting drugs or anything illegal inside of
14	that particular vehicle that was stopped pursuant to the
15	felony takedown, correct?
16	<b>A</b> . Did anybody see him putting drugs in the vehicle
17	before? No.
18	<b>Q</b> . Did anybody see him putting any illegal weapons
19	or I'm sorry, putting any illegal weapons inside that
20	vehicle?
21	A. No.
22	<b>Q</b> . What about Ms. Babineaux? Same questions.
23	A. No.
24	<b>Q</b> . Now, I know you mentioned there were photographs
25	inside of the Robley residence, correct?

1	A. Yes.
2	<b>Q</b> . And that there were male clothing, correct?
3	A. Yes.
4	<b>Q</b> . At any point in time did you see did any agent
5	see Mr. Arceneaux with any of this clothing on?
6	A. Not that I'm I don't know.
7	<b>Q</b> . Any of the shoes on or anything like that?
8	A. I don't know.
9	<b>Q</b> . With regards to the photographs, I guess because I
10	believe they were trying to establish a nexus between
11	Mr. Arceneaux and that particular residence, I guess the way
12	you established that nexus was a picture of Mr. Arceneaux
13	inside the residence, correct?
14	A. Is that that's not the only way but, I mean
15	<b>Q</b> . But as far as what was discovered, I believe, and I
16	may be wrong, but I believe the question was asked by the
17	Court, one of the questions was how were you able to
18	determine that Mr. Arceneaux was out of there, I believe that
19	may have been the question, kind of paraphrasing, and I
20	believe you answered there were photographs in there and that
21	there were male clothes.
22	A. And male shoes, right.
23	Q. Male shoes?
24	A. I believe there was other ways. But again, I don't
25	want to speak to the case agent and what he has in his

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correct?

affidavit or may not have. I just remember those specific things being located during the search warrant. At no point in time while searching Robley Drive was there any documents or any witnesses found to say definitively that Mr. Arceneaux resided there, correct? Α. Resided there? Q. Or lived there. I don't know if they spoke to any witnesses and I Α. don't know if there was any documents found. I don't know. Q. So nothing, no lease agreements or anything within Robley that said, hey, Mr. Arceneaux signed this and he lives at this particular residence? Not that I'm aware of. I don't know. The manager of the particular area or landlord, no Q. one was interviewed to say that Mr. Arceneaux lives at that residence, correct? Α. I don't know. MR. REGISTER: No further questions, Your Honor. THE COURT: Thank you. Any redirect? MR. NICKEL: Yes, Your Honor. REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. NICKEL: Q. Agent Picard, you were asked on cross-examination whether someone else described this as a felony takedown,

1	A. Yes.
2	<b>Q</b> . That report that you saw, was that your report?
3	A. No.
4	<b>Q</b> . Is it safe to say that sometimes you describe
5	things differently than other officers?
6	A. Yes.
7	$oldsymbol{Q}$ . At that point in the we'll call it the takedown,
8	the investigation, were you still investigating a narcotics
9	violation by Tycoby Arceneaux?
10	A. Yes.
11	<b>Q</b> . Okay. Was the vehicle he was stopped in the same
12	vehicle he was seen performing counter-surveillance
13	techniques days before?
14	A. Yes.
15	<b>Q</b> . Officers saw Mr. Arceneaux enter and exit that
16	residence on days prior to the search warrant date, correct?
17	A. The 1200 Robley?
18	Q. Yes.
19	A. Yes.
20	${f Q}$ . When you stopped the vehicle, I guess when the
21	vehicle was stopped in the driveway, there was an
22	investigation still a narcotics investigation still
23	happening, correct?
24	A. Yes.
25	<b>Q</b> . There was discussions about whether to tow this

1	car, correct?
2	A. Yes.
3	<b>Q</b> . There was discussions about whether to search the
4	car without the canine sniff, correct?
5	A. Yes.
6	<b>Q</b> . There was discussions about other things, correct?
7	A. Yes.
8	<b>Q</b> . There was discussion with the female on scene,
9	correct?
10	A. Yes.
11	<b>Q</b> . There was discussion about Mr. Arceneaux and what
12	belonged to him in the car, right?
13	A. Yes.
14	MR. NICKEL: No further questions, Your Honor.
15	THE COURT: Thank you. Detective Picard, one
16	additional question. After Mr. Arceneaux is arrested
17	pursuant to the arrest warrant for reckless driving, did
18	the female passenger indicate that she was going
19	anywhere else?
20	THE WITNESS: That she was going anywhere else? I
21	don't think so. I don't believe so, no.
22	THE COURT: You testified that was her house,
23	right?
24	THE WITNESS: Right.
25	THE COURT: And she subsequently walked into her

1	house?
2	THE WITNESS: Once we were done?
3	THE COURT: Well, I suppose, or I guess after you
4	finished talking to her, yes.
5	THE WITNESS: When we left she was still, I
6	believe, standing in the driveway so I don't know. I
7	assume she did, but I don't know specifically what she
8	did. She Mr. Arceneaux was okay with allowing her to
9	keep the vehicle. She was okay with taking
10	responsibility for the vehicle. We talked a little
11	while in the driveway near the carport area and we left.
12	I don't know specifically what she did afterward. The
13	last time I remember seeing her she was still standing
14	outside.
15	THE COURT: You were there, correct?
16	THE WITNESS: Was I there?
17	THE COURT: Right. You were there?
18	THE WITNESS: Yes.
19	THE COURT: And did you did you observe or hear
20	her say to anybody that she needed to go anywhere else?
21	THE WITNESS: No.
22	THE COURT: All right. Court will be in recess for
23	15 minutes. We'll come back at 4:10.
24	(Recess is taken.)
25	THE COURT: We're back on the record now in

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                MR. JOHNSON: I'm sorry, Your Honor. Our client is
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           out.
 4
                THE COURT: Let's bring the Defendant back in.
 5
           Thank you, Mr. Johnson.
 6
                MR. JOHNSON: Yes. sir.
 7
                THE COURT: For the record, the Defendant is now
           present in court with counsel. The Court has taken the
 8
 9
           Defendant's motion to suppress under advisement and will
10
           state its reasons on the record. First, do the parties
11
           stipulate -- and listen to my question carefully.
                                                              Do
12
           the parties stipulate that the Defendant had a
13
           reasonable expectation of privacy in the apartment at
14
           1200 Robley Drive, Apartment 3112?
                MR. NICKEL: Yes, Your Honor.
15
16
                MR. JOHNSON: Could you repeat that, Your Honor.
17
                THE COURT: In order to rule on your suppression
18
           motion I have to first determine that the Defendant had
19
           a reasonable expectation of privacy at the apartment at
20
           1200 Robley Drive, Apartment 3112. I'm not asking if he
           lived there, what his exact relationship; but do you
21
22
           stipulate that he had a reasonable expectation of
23
           privacy at that apartment? Without that he can't move
24
           to suppress anything, you understand?
25
                MR. JOHNSON: Right. Absolutely. I understand.
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So he did have one, Your Honor.

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THE COURT: It's stipulated by the Government and the Defendant not exactly what that was but that he had a general reasonable expectation of privacy in that It's well-established that the exclusionary rule is a judicial doctrine created to deter police misconduct. Officers generally are entitled to rely on good faith on a valid search warrant that's signed by a neutral magistrate. Here, in the search of 1200 Robley Drive, Apartment 3112, the Court finds that since the search of 1200 Robley Drive was made pursuant to a valid search warrant the good faith exception to the exclusionary rule applies without regard to whether the underlying affidavit, in fact, established probable Specifically, the Court finds that the affidavit upon which the warrant was based was not so lacking in the indicia of probable cause as to render official belief in its validity entirely unreasonable. Although the affidavit doesn't state the sheriff's department's prior relationship, if any, with the informant or whether he or she had previously given reliable information, the affidavit does state the informant's basis for knowledge in detail, specifically that he or she had seen large amounts of narcotics at the apartment, he or she had obtained narcotics from the

Defendant at the subject apartment recently and multiple times in the past, and that he or she had spoken with the Defendant via phone to discuss drug transactions. Law enforcement also took steps to corroborate the information received from this informant by conducting surveillance on the apartment, observing what they believed was a drug transaction, and subsequently finding narcotics in the car of the person leaving the subject address that had apparently been obtained from that address.

Next, the search of 104 Royalton Parkway, the first search of 104 Royalton Parkway. This was a search conducted on January 28 of 2022 to obtain information establishing the Defendant was a resident of 104 Royalton Parkway. The search was conducted pursuant to a search warrant signed by a neutral magistrate. Likewise, as before, the fruits of the search are entitled to the good faith exception as the affidavit supporting the search warrant was not so lacking in the indicia of probable cause as to render official belief in its validity unreasonable. The search was narrowly tailored in scope to documents to establish whether Mr. Arceneaux resided there or not and was based on the fact that the owner of that address, 104 Royalton, was the same as the lessor of the address at 1200 Robley

Drive, Apartment 3112, where officers had just found a substantial quantity of drugs as well as officers' observations of the Defendant and the owner of 104 Royalton at that address and an open source records search showing the Defendant to be a resident of 104 Royalton from October of 2021 through the date of the search, which was January 28, 2022.

The second search of 104 Royalton did not yield any oxidence. Accordingly, the Court will not address its

The second search of 104 Royalton did not yield any evidence. Accordingly, the Court will not address its validity.

Next, the search of the Defendant's truck. As to the search of this truck, testimony taken in court today revealed that the Defendant's arrest was made pursuant to a lawful search warrant signed by a commissioner for reckless driving and that the sheriff's department's subsequent search of his truck was supported by probable cause and, thus, lawful pursuant to the automobile exception to the search warrant requirement.

Specifically, a search that day, on the day of the search of the truck was also -- just prior to that was a search of the address at 1200 Robley Drive, Apartment 3112, where 10 pounds of methamphetamine had been found as well as a dog sniff of the truck subsequent to the Defendant's arrest indicating the presence of narcotics and information found at the Apartment 3112, 1200 Robley

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           Drive, linking the Defendant with that apartment.
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                Accordingly, the Defendant's motion to suppress is
                    Mr. Dicharry -- oh. Do you object to that?
 3
           denied.
 4
                MR. REGISTER: Yes, sir.
 5
                THE COURT: Okay.
                MR. REGISTER: Your Honor, respectfully, with
 6
 7
           regards -- just for the record, I would like to object
 8
           to the Court's ruling with regards to denying the motion
 9
           to suppress each search warrant as well as the truck
10
           that was searched in this particular case, Your Honor.
11
                THE COURT: Okay. It was also brought to the
12
           Court's attention that there was a spectator that was
13
           videoing this proceeding. There's clearly stated signs
14
           at the door. Deputy Dicharry, will you please identify
15
           who that was.
                MR. DICHARRY: Individual in the blue.
16
17
                THE COURT: Sir, will you please approach at this
18
                  Come up here. Stand right there. Did you know
19
           you're not supposed to video recordings in federal
20
           court?
                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Shakes head side to side.)
21
22
                THE COURT: You didn't see the sign right outside
23
           the door?
24
                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I never -- no, sir.
25
                THE COURT: I'm going to ask you -- I've been urged
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1	by the marshal service to hold you in contempt. I don't
2	want to do that. I don't agree with the rule that cell
3	phones are allowed in the building in the first place.
4	I'm going to take you at your word. If you work with
5	Deputy Dicharry right now to delete the video off your
6	phone, we'll end it here. Okay.
7	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, sir.
8	THE COURT: You promise me you'll do that?
9	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, sir.
10	THE COURT: Court's in recess.
11	(Proceedings adjourned.)
12	
13	
14	* * * * *
15	
16	
17	CERTIFICATE
18	
19	I hereby certify this 28th day of September, 2022 that
20	the foregoing is, to the best of my ability and
21	understanding, a true and correct transcript of the
22	proceedings in the above-entitled matter.
23	
24	Deidre D. Juranka
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